



PCT

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 5: A23L 1/18, A21B 5/02	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 92/12646
		(43) International Publication Date: 6 August 1992 (06.08.92)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/BE91/00005

(22) International Filing Date: 24 January 1991 (24.01.91)

(71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: VAN DEN BERGHE, René
[BE/BE]; Baneike 24, B-9660 Brakel (BE).

(81) Designated States: AT (European patent), AU, BB, BE (European patent), BF (OAPI patent), BG, BJ (OAPI patent), BR, CA, CF (OAPI patent), CG (OAPI patent), CH (European patent), CM (OAPI patent), DE (European patent), DK, DK (European patent), ES (European patent), FI, FR (European patent), GA (OAPI patent), GB (European patent), GR (European patent), HU, IT (European patent), JP, KP, KR, LK, LU (European patent), MC, MG, ML (OAPI patent), MR (OAPI patent), MW, NL (European patent), NO, RO, SD, SE (European patent), SN (OAPI patent), SU, TD (OAPI patent), TG (OAPI patent), US.

Published
With international search report.

= US-A-5467693

(54) Title: IMPROVED APPARATUS FOR GRANULAR CRACKER PRODUCTION

(57) Abstract

In a cracker production apparatus of the type comprising a heatable mould consisting of a stationary upper mould element (7), a movable ring mould (10) and a reciprocating lower mould element or punch (9) driven by a hydraulically actuated toggle-mechanism (11), the improvement wherein a twin-head mould arrangement for high rate, automatic manufacture of uniformly expanded crackers is driven by a single hydraulic drive unit formed of two aligned, cooperating double-action pistons, whereby a first piston is adapted to control, in combination with specific central program/microprocessing means, an adjustable final baking pressure, and a second piston to regulate a desired expanded cracker thickness, and this independent of grain feed and/or apparatus related mechanical parameters. Advantageously two twin-head machines are arranged in tandem with a single hydraulic drive unit and mutually connected toggle members. The ring moulds may be designed for allowing multiple cracker production in each mould set.

